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Letter dated 18 October 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my letter of 5 September 2003 (S/2003/889) in which I proposed, and the Security Council subsequently approved on 11 September 2003 (see S/2003/890), the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA) for a period of one year, from 1 January to 31 December 2004.

Following consultations with the Transitional Government of the Central African Republic, during which the authorities requested the renewal of the mandate of BONUCA, I wish to propose an extension for an additional year, until 31 December 2005. This extension would enable the Office to continue to support the Transitional Government's efforts to restore constitutional legality and help to create a propitious political environment for the holding of credible presidential and legislative elections, which are expected to take place on 30 January and 27 February 2005. In addition, I have asked BONUCA to assess the implications of developments in neighbouring countries on the situation in the Central African Republic and vice versa.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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